



# Egremont News

Issue 99

March, 2018

## Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in our community. It is printed on a bi-monthly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter. If you wish to receive this newsletter via email please contact town hall.

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## Selectmen:

The Board is pleased to announce the hiring of Erik Josephson as Egremont's new Police Chief. He will begin working in Egremont on March 5 along side Interim Chief Brian Shaw for a month. Chief Josephson comes to Egremont from Jericho VT where he has been a Sergeant-Shift Commander for the St. Albans City Police Department since 2008. Prior to that he was a Police Officer in New Hampshire and Rhode Island. The Board will be scheduling an open house, meet and greet for sometime in April.

We are very thankful for the great leadership of Interim Chief Shaw over the last several months. He will once again leave Egremont's Police Department in tip top shape to continue his retirement.

If you get a moment stop by the Police Station to say hello to Erik and goodbye to Brian. They will both be around town during the month of March at least during the day time hours.

## Special Town Meeting:

March 27, 2018, 7:00pm, Mount Everett High School Auditorium.

There will possibly be three financial articles to act on: supplementing the Police Chief's salary account; purchasing a vote count tabulator for elections; and possibly further funding for repairs at the South Egremont school house.

There will also be three Zoning bylaw amendments to be voted on: An amendment to the Common Driveways bylaw; an amendment to the Large Scale Solar Array bylaw; and the adoption of a new recreation overlay district.

The full text of the warrant will be available on March 13, 2018.

## Annual Town Meeting Schedule:

The Town's Annual Town Meeting will be on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at 7pm at the Mount Everett High School.

**DEADLINE FOR WARRANT ARTICLES is March 15, 2018.**

The Warrant will be posted and available to the public on April 16, 2018.

The Town's annual election will be on May 8, 2018 from 10am to 7pm at the North Egremont Fire Station.

Nomination papers for town offices are due back to the Town Clerk on March 20, 2018. Up for election are one Moderator for one year, one Town Clerk for one year, one Selectman for three years, one Library Trustee for three years, one Cemetery Commissioner for three years, one member of the Planning Board for five years, one Tree Warden for one year, one Assessor for three years, one Planning Board Associate member. Currently there are known vacancies on the Cemetery Commission and the Planning board.

## Rabies Vaccine Clinic:

March 10, 2018, from 9am to 11am, at the Town Hall. The cost is \$15.00. Get your dog licensed at the same time. Your puppy must be at least 12 weeks of age to get a rabies vaccine.

## Police Chief:

It has been a very interesting few months back at the Chief's Desk, and I have enjoyed them. I have been welcomed back into the Office by all the fine Officers of the Egremont Police Department and all the staff who

work diligently every day at the Town Hall to make sure all things continue to move forward.

First and foremost I would like to join everyone in welcoming the new Chief of Police, Erik Josephson to the helm at the Egremont Police Department. Chief Josephson and I should be at the next COA meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Village Inn to meet and greet and discuss new and old strategies for assisting our seniors in any way we can.

TBA I am sure there will be more opportunities to meet the new Chief, hopefully it will not be on the side of the road.

I am happy to announce we have received new RADAR signs that will be strategically placed around Town on those certain roads where speeders frequent....ALL OF THE ROADS. New software will allow us have better information on just when the highest volume of traffic occurs in each location which will allow us to better allocate resources and set up enforcement and education (Speed Traps) target areas.

Please be patient, we will get to your area. With this said let's hope we don't see your vehicle parked directly in front of one of the police cruisers any time soon.

Winter is still with us for the foreseeable future so please continue to use caution when driving in bad weather. Very few things are worth wrecking your car or worse, getting hurt. It can wait until tomorrow.

**REMINDER: If You SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!** We can only stop crime and or help your neighbors if someone CALLS US. Please use our services, we are here for YOU!.

Dear Neighbors:

I would like to take a minute to introduce myself to the Egremont Community. My name is Erik H. Josephson and I have the privilege to have been appointed to serve as your next Police Chief. My career in law enforcement started back in 1986 and has progressed through the years with what I hope to be many more. Through the years, I have been lucky enough to have served under some of the best examples of leadership one could hope for in my profession, and have learned the importance of community, and providing the best possible service. I will continue to strengthen those values within the

Egremont Police Department where we will strive not only to establish a strong partnership with the community, but be good neighbors.

I have always had an open-door policy and understand the importance of accessibility. I will continue to make this an element of our community policing strategy and I/we will be available as needed.

Please feel free to stop in or call at any time and say hello, and if you see a big bald guy waving as we pass each other wave back, it will make my day.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erik H. Josephson

#### **Mount Washington Road:**

##### **Reconstruction of Mount Washington Road**

Length of project – 3.5 miles

##### **Proposed Improvements:**

1. Pavement rehabilitation
2. Roadway widening
3. Guardrail installation
4. Culvert upgrades
5. Replacement of 3 bridges
6. New signage and pavement markings
7. Drainage upgrades

Construction Cost: \$9,000,000 (est.)

25% Design Fee: \$535,500

Remaining Design Fee: \$500,000 (est.)

Anticipated construction: 2023/2024

At this year's Town Meeting, Egremont residents will be asked to vote on appropriating the initial design funds for the reconstruction of Mount Washington Road so that the roadway's reconstruction can be funded through the Massachusetts Highway Department's (MassDOT) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The project has already been deemed eligible by MassDOT for the TIP program in late 2016, but the design of the project needs to be progressed to a better position for the project to be programmed and prioritized by the

Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for TIP funding and construction. Under MassDOT's TIP program, municipalities are responsible for funding the project's design and securing and necessary ROW and MassDOT is responsible for funding the construction.

Mount Washington Road is one of only four roads that service the Town of Mount Washington and it serves as the only link from Mount Washington to adjoining towns in Massachusetts, which is otherwise cut off from the Commonwealth by the Jug End State Reservation, Mt. Washington State Forest, and Mt. Everett State Reservation. Children from the Town of Mount Washington attend regional schools in Egremont and other surrounding towns. Egremont emergency services use Mount Washington Road to provide emergency response support to the town of Mount Washington and for the number of recreational trails in the Mt Washington State Forest and Mt Everett State Reservation.

The total length of the proposed roadway improvements is approximately 3.5 miles beginning at the Mount Washington / Egremont town line and extending to North Undermountain Road (Rte. 41). Proposed improvements include pavement rehabilitation, roadway widening, guardrail installation, culvert upgrades, the replacement of three bridges, new signage, pavement markings, and drainage upgrades. With the primary goals being to rehabilitate the roadway and improve safety along the corridor for all roadway users, the project will allow for continued regional access and sharing of resources.



*The deteriorated existing bridges would be replaced with wider structures with shoulders making it safer for bicyclists and pedestrians who travel along the roadway.*



*The poor pavement condition along Mount Washington Road, makes for poor drivability and creates hazardous conditions during rain and snow storm events.*

MassDOT's TIP program is a fiscally constrained, multi-year program for implementation of transportation improvement projects in the region. The construction funds come from both state and federal sources and projects are programed and prioritized by the Berkshire MPO. The MPO is made up of 10 members representing MassDOT, Berkshire Regional Planning & Transit agencies, and communities in Berkshire Region. Based on a project prioritization list developed by the MPO, projects are added to the TIP each year on a revolving five year cycle. The TIP list for years 2018 – 2022 does not include the Mount Washington Road Project and it is the Town's goal to have this project added to the next TIP list in the Spring of 2018 which will program projects for 2019 - 2023.

The Berkshire Region has approximately \$8 million per year available for Highway projects in the TIP and the competition to get these projects prioritized and funded by the MPO is fierce. One of the best ways to help projects get prioritized is for municipalities to show a firm level of commitment towards the project's design and success. Last year, the approval for the initial design funding was presented during a special town meeting held on June 22, 2017 and was tabled, as representatives from the community and town government wanted additional supportive information on the project's overall costs and impacts. To help keep the project moving forward and show a commitment to the MPO, the Town retained CHA Consulting, Inc. to develop concept level plans of the

roadway improvements to help determine the overall project impacts as well as better refine the project's overall estimated construction costs. Based on this initial study, the project is currently estimated at \$9 million including contingencies, utility relocations and construction administration services. The vote before the residents of Egremont at this year's Town Meeting is to appropriate \$535,500 to advance the concept design to the 25% design level which will further demonstrate the Town's project commitment to the MPO with the goal of getting the project prioritized on the 2019 - 2023 TIP cycle and construction anticipated in 2023/2024. It should be noted that the cost associated with the 25% Design Phase is typically approximately 50% of the overall design effort.

#### **South Egremont School:**

The town has struggled to get the much needed foundation repairs at the school house completed. When the Mass Historic Commission only awarded the town \$50,000 instead of the \$100,000 that was sought, it left the funding for the project short. The bids keep coming in at the level we expected them to leaving our funds short about \$45,000 with no contingency. A private fund drive was highly successful but not quite enough. Town officials remain optimistic that this work will be completed by the end of August, 2018.

The town did not get awarded an ADA (American with Disabilities Act) grant in the amount of \$107,000 which would have enabled the town to make the building fully accessible, inside and out. Though it was felt, and is still felt, it is important to make the building accessible, it is not a vital need at this time. The Town can reapply or can request a waiver from the ADA requirements, which is often granted to historic buildings.

The School District voted on February 21 to begin the process to close the school house as one of the SBRSD school buildings. The district has begun the process of setting up public hearings in each town for input on this issue. The hearing in Egremont is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 21 at 7:00pm, at the North Egremont Fire Station (please

note all parking is at the town hall - no parking will be allowed at the fire station). If the School District votes, after getting input from the towns to close the school house, the voters of all five towns in the district will then be asked to vote at their town meetings in May.

#### **ECO-TIP**

Good news! You can stop wasting time on washing those black plastic containers that held greasy chicken. Black plastic can't be recycled, so just throw it (dirty) into the regular trash.

#### **Agricultural Commission:**

##### **Pollinators are in the news!**

What are pollinators? Insects like bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles and a few animals like hummingbirds and some bats are pollinators which move pollen between flowers enabling plants to produce seeds. This ecological service is imperative to the reproduction of nearly 85% of the world's flowering plants. The seeds that result provide food and seeds for animals ranging from songbirds to bears.

These pollinators are essential to human life as well. About 1/3 of the food and beverages we eat as humans require the presence of a pollinator. For example, without pollinators there would be no apples, peaches, pears, pumpkins, squash, blueberries and many other fruits and vegetables. What would remain would be only wind pollinated crops like tomatoes, corn, and wheat.

Unfortunately, there is a world wide decline of pollinators. Scientists say there are three major reasons: overall disease, poor nutrition and the introduction of a new class of insecticide/pesticides called neonicotinoides.

##### **What can we do?**

Provide a diversity of blooming plants, preferably native plants, from early spring to late fall.

Protect nests and egg-laying sites. Native bees like untidy places in the garden like brush piles, open sandy ground, and old tree stumps. Butterflies often need specific plants to feed on during the caterpillar stage.

Don't use pesticides. Many products, even "organically-approved" pesticides can be lethal to pollinators. Seek out alternative methods to spraying.



Spread the word and seek to make your community "pollinator-friendly."

For more information:

[bringbackthepollinators.org](http://bringbackthepollinators.org)

Keep your eyes open for an upcoming forum on making Egremont a "Pollinator-Friendly" community.

### **Historical Commission:**

Last year saw the decommissioning, and subsequent sale of the North Egremont Baptist Church (NEBC) on Rt. 71. Roxanne Gawthrop, a member of the church contacted the Egremont Historical Commission and, working together with their membership, we were able to transfer four boxes of historical records, publications and photographs to the town's archival repository on the second floor of the Mt. Everett Academy Building. The materials, under the supervision of Margaret Cherin, an archivist and a member of the EHC, were professionally secured and processed by a recent Simon's Rock graduate, Molly McGowan. Hours were spent removing old tape, and plastic binders before the photographs and documents were placed in acid free folders and alphabetically catalogued. The materials date from 1940 to 2015 and include items such as minutes, bulletins, guest records, monthly reports and many photographs documenting the church's anniversary celebrations. Access to the collection, as well as to a detailed inventory, are available in the Archives Room by appointment with a member of the EHC. At some point we hope to have the entire collection scanned so access can be made online.

A recent visitor to the collection has already demonstrated the value of easy access digitized archives. Steve McAlister of Clark and Green, a member of the architectural team that is conducting the restoration of the historic Clinton A. M. E. Zion church in Great Barrington discovered that the North Egremont Baptist Church was built around the same time and contained similar architectural elements. Many of these details had been lost at the Zion Church, which has changed over time. Steve left with copies of photos from the collection that will help his team create a more accurate restoration. We were happy to see the Egremont Archives collection in

action! And we always ask that any photos you have of buildings in town over the last 100 years or so be dropped off so we can scan them and make a record, and returned.

### **ECO-TIP**

One way to reduce your plastic consumption: When buying trash or garbage bags, get the thinnest ones that will do the job (compare the mils). Some new white kitchen trash bags are so thick they'd be safe for car parts!

### **Council on Aging:**

We hope this long winter has been kind to all our Seniors!. We do have a few suggestions to make things easier for you and to provide you with entertainment and exercise.

Our Exercise Class, taught by Elaine Ireland, continues to meet Thursday and Friday mornings at the South Egremont Congregational Church. Elaine's classes offer individual attention and stress balance exercises to help prevent falls. The next session starts Thursday, Feb. 22 and continues on March 1, 8, 22, 5 and 12. The Friday class starts Feb. 23 and continues on March 2, 9, 23, 6, and 13. The cost is \$30.00 for a six week session. You can register by calling the Town Hall, 528-0182, ext 17 or by going to a class.

It has been a hard winter for all of you walkers with the amount of ice we've had. Did you know you can go to the Mt. Everett/Undermountain School Campus in Sheffield and walk the halls? It's free and the school only requests you go after 3:00 p.m. so you don't interfere with classes. It's nice level, even walking and you can go up and down several flights of stairs if you wish to get more of a work out.

Speaking of falls....here are some tips to help you avoid them on the ice: "winterize" shoes, boot, and assistive devices; attach spikeless ice and snow sole covers for shoes for extra stability when walking on slippery surfaces - look for these at sporting good stores; attach an ice gripper cane tip that has spikes on the bottom to penetrate the ice and secure a firm grip - ice grip tips can be purchased online; choose winter shoes with rubber soles to help maintain traction; try this inexpensive way to make wheelchair snow tires: carry kitty litter for slick surfaces in a zip tote bag filled with a lightweight kitty litter and cast it ahead of the wheelchair.

Don't forget "Sand for Seniors". You can pick up your free bucket of sand at the Town Hall or call 528-0182, ext 17 to have it delivered to you.

Your COA is offering an additional CPR Class. "American Heart Association Family and Friends CPR" will be held Saturday, March 10 from 10:00 – 12:00 at the North Egremont Fire Station. The instructor will be David Katzenstein from the Egremont Fire Department. This class is designed for those who wish to learn CPR but do not need a certificate of completion for their employment. Class size is limited to 6 and you must preregister by calling the Town Hall at 528-0182, ext. 17.

Our monthly luncheons continue at the Egremont Village Inn. Our speaker in January was ill but we spent an enjoyable hour sharing ideas and tips with our neighbors to help make life easier for our Senior citizens.

Come to our March Luncheon and have a drawing lesson with local artist Eunice Agar. Eunice guarantees that "You can Draw"! Our April 4th luncheon will feature an update on Scams with a representative from Egremont Police Department. May 2<sup>nd</sup> will feature a cooking demonstration by Bob Climo from the GB Bagel Company.

As always we ask that you call the Town Hall at 528-0182, ext 17, to let us know if you are coming to a luncheon and to let us know if you have special dietary needs. And feel free to bring a friend to join us.

Along with your Census Notice this year you received a survey from the COA. So far, we've had 130 responses. Only 4 people indicated they had missed medical appointments due to a lack of transportation and 2 felt that they would need assistance with transportation in the coming year. 100 responses indicated a need for Senior Housing in Egremont, 22 didn't know or had no opinion or didn't see a need and 8 were blank. 79 responders indicated they would like to receive a phone call in the event of a power outage or other emergency. COA will be meeting with other Town offices to get these phone calls started

In previous years our Police Department has done house visits to our seniors. If you would like to have the police stop in and see you once a week or so, call 528-0182, ext 17 or 24, and we will it set up.

Your COA is here to help our Egremont Seniors. If you need assistance, have ideas or suggestions, or would just like to chat please give us a call (528-0182, ext. 24) We'd love to hear from you!

### Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit:

**Its tax time again! So, that means it's also time to file a claim for the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit for adults age 65+. Adults 65 and older can file for the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit along with their state income tax return.**

Too many people who are eligible fail to complete the simple 1-page form. For proof, note that in 2014, only 13.8% of adults age 65+ actually filed for this credit. (83,000 out of a total of 601,600 tax filers age 65+).

Adults age 65 and older are eligible to receive this tax credit when their property taxes and half of their water/sewer bills total more than 10% of their income. Or, if they rent an apartment (without a state or federal subsidy) they may get this tax credit if their rent is more than 25% of their income.

Here are details on how to quickly get good outreach tools and the MA state income tax forms:

Tax filers should use the "Schedule CB form" and "Form 1", respectively.

It's easy to get the forms – download them from this link: **To download the tax forms** -- Form 1 and Schedule CB Form - go to the official Department of Revenue site at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/2017-massachusetts-personal-income-tax-forms-and-instructions>

The benefits for elders could be sizeable:

If someone pays little or no state income taxes, then the circuit breaker tax credit is paid out as a refund check for the amount that exceeds their income tax obligation!!

Refund checks will help out immediately -- to pay for other household essentials like food, utilities, transportation and heat.

### Egremont Assessors:

The fiscal year 2018 tax rate is \$9.62 per one thousand dollars of assessed value.

The applications for Non Profits and Forms of Lists for businesses have been sent out. If you have a new business in town, please contact our office. These forms must be completed and returned to our office by March 1.

If you have recently purchased property in Egremont, the tax bill will show the previous owner's name in care of the new owner for the coming year. M.G.L. Chapter 59 Section 11 states the name of the owner of record as of January 1 will appear on the tax bill for the next fiscal year (4 bills per fiscal year). Although your name is in the care of line, you as the owner are responsible for the property tax.

Every motor vehicle and trailer registered in Massachusetts is subject to excise tax unless expressly exempted. Registering a motor vehicle automatically triggers an excise tax. The Registry of Motor Vehicles prepares data for excise bills according to the information on the motor vehicle registration and sends it to the Town Assessors. Towns then prepare and send the bills based on the excise data provided by the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The owner is responsible for making sure the Registry of Motor Vehicles has the correct billing address on the tax bill.

The Assessors' Office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am until noon. We are also available by appointment. You may email the Board of Assessors at [assessors@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:assessors@egremont-ma.gov).

### **Emergency Management**

If any power outages occur in our area, it is imperative that they be reported via the National Grid Customer Service or Outage Reporting phone numbers. Please report any outages or downed wires via these phone numbers. Every outage phone call that National Grid receives is logged into their outage tracking system and better enables them to pinpoint the location of the issue. The sooner that they can identify the location of the issue, the better they can respond.

#### **Outage Reporting Phone Numbers:**

Customer Service: [1-800-322-3223](tel:1-800-322-3223) (can also be used for any other general questions)

Outage Reporting: [1-800-465-1212](tel:1-800-465-1212) (automated line for reporting power outages or downed wires)

Also, please call the Egremont Police Department so they are aware of possible downed power lines, etc. They may be reached at [413-528-2160](tel:413-528-2160).

Egremont's Emergency Management Team encourages all residents to be prepared for weather

events that affect us here in the Berkshires - from winter snows to severe thunderstorms. The information and links provided on the Town of Egremont website preparedness page will help you better prepare yourself and your family for these events.

Egremont is able to make announcements to townspeople by way of telephone and email. There are several messages that may be sent to you. Street closures, water issues, meetings and other general informational topics may utilize the system. In an emergency, the system is set up to call all of the numbers you have listed with Egremont, along with any email addresses you have registered in the system. It is also able to send text messages.

Egremont's telephone alert system works by detecting a voice when you answer the phone. After you pick up the phone and say hello, there may be a second or two of 'dead air'. The system will wait after you answer in order to determine if there is an answering machine on the line. The message will start after that.

If you wish, the system can send an email or text message to you. It can also call your cell phone or VOIP type telephone (through your television or computer if you have that service).

The important thing to know is that you must register those means of contact with the Town of Egremont; the system only has access to regular listed land line telephone numbers; it cannot detect unlisted numbers. It also cannot get VOIP or cell phone numbers, nor can it determine email addresses. Those must be manually entered into the system.

If you would like to change or add your information into the system, please email or call us with the pertinent contact numbers and email addresses.

If you have any questions about the alert system, please contact us by email or telephone and we will be happy to answer them.

Email: [wbrinker@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:wbrinker@egremont-ma.gov) Phone: [413 528-0182 ext 17](tel:413-528-0182)

### **ECO-TIP**

NOT FOR THE RECYCLE BIN at Transfer Station: plastic bottles that held car fluids -- motor oil, etc.

**Water Department:**

Did you know that a dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day? A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons a day. These leaks waste your water and your money.

**Toilet Leaks** are hard to detect. They are usually caused by a bad main valve, flapper valve seat, a bad flush valve, an improperly positioned float arm, or a defective overflow tube. Test your toilets by dropping a few drops of food coloring into the tank. **DO NOT FLUSH!** Wait for 15 to 20 minutes. If color appears in the bowl, then you have a leak and repairs need to be made.

**Faucet Leaks** are easy to find. If it drips, or worse, continues running after you shut it off, it needs to be fixed. If the dripping water is warm, it is costing you extra money! Water dripping or running from the shower head when the shower is turned firmly off, it is usually caused by bad washers or seats which need replacing. Also, check for leaks from the tub faucet when the shower is turned on. This leak will defeat the purpose of a low-flow shower head because the water you save with the low-flow device is lost from the tub faucet.

The Egremont Water Department has endorsed the Service Sentinel water line maintenance program. This program, offered by New England Service Company (NESC), is available to all water customers and covers any maintenance activity on water lines caused by normal breakage or rupture that develops on a customer's property. For more details about this program please visit [www.SentinelPlans.com](http://www.SentinelPlans.com) or call NESC at 860-747-1665 for more information.

As always, if you have any questions about water supply or billing, the Water Department Clerk is available at Town Hall Monday - Friday from 7 to 3; telephone 528-0182 ext 17

**Town Clerk:**

The Town of Egremont, with 1000 registered voters, is one of the few remaining towns in the Commonwealth which still hand counts paper ballots for elections. At the Special Town Meeting on Tuesday March 27<sup>th</sup>, a request for voter approval will be made to transfer available funds for the purchase of an electronic voting tabulator.

Why has the time come to switch from hand-counting ballots to employing the use of a tabulator? A voting tabulator is proven to be 99.999% accurate and will considerably cut the time it takes to count paper ballots for an election.

For example, with a phenomenal 86% turnout of voters for the November 2016 Presidential Election, poll workers did not finish counting the ballots until 1:30 am the following morning. If a voting tabulator was in use for that election, it is highly likely the counting would have been finished in 2 to 3 hours. Our dedicated poll workers endure long days manning the polling station, and accuracy will be enhanced with the use of a tabulator.

In addition, the wooden voting box we use for elections in Egremont is 100 years old. It is doubtful replacement parts are available if the mechanism inside the box should malfunction. It would be a calamity if that old wooden voting box should break down during an actual election.

With the use of a tabulator, elections will remain relatively the same. Voters will still check in and out the same way. You will still be given a paper ballot (it will have a slightly different format though) and votes will be marked in the same private voting booths. But instead of feeding your ballot into the old wooden box, you will feed it into the tabulator which will scan the ballot and confidentially hold the information. The ballot itself will be stored in a sealed compartment within the machine. At the close of the election, a few buttons are pressed and a tally of votes cast for the various position on the ballot is printed. In the case of write-ins, the tabulator recognizes the different ballot markings, and holds those ballots in a different compartment. At the end of the evening, ballots with write-ins will be hand counted.

If you have any questions about this election voting change please give Town Clerk Juliette Haas a call at (413) 528-0182 x 11 or email her at [townclerk@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@egremont-ma.gov).

**Board of Health:**

Spring is in the air in Egremont! Many homeowners choose this time of year to address annual household repairs and maintenance. The Board of Health would like to remind those of you with wells that spring is an excellent time to have a water quality test performed on your well water.

Water testing kits are in the lobby of town hall. Inside those kits are instructions on how to properly draw a water sample, what to test for, where to take your sample



and how much it will cost. Testing your water annually is a safeguard to monitor possible changes in your well or water and assure its quality.

Another Board of Health recommended spring maintenance chore is directed to those who have outlet filters on their septic tanks. If your home has a newer septic system (installed within the last 15 years) you probably have one. If you're not sure, please call Juliette at the Board of Health (413/528-0182 x22) to check.

These filters are installed to prolong the longevity of your leach field. Like most filters though, they can become clogged if not cleaned regularly. The danger of a clogged septic tank filter is that instead of septic wastewater flowing into your leach field which distributes it into the ground, this nasty, yucky septic wastewater backs up into your home.

To avoid this very unsanitary condition, the filter must be cleaned yearly. You can do this work yourself or hire someone to do it for you. If you hire a septic pumper to perform this work, ask yourself when was the last time you had the tank pumped. The Board of Health recommends pumping your tank every 3 - 4 years if the home is occupied year round, slightly longer if it is used part-time or seasonally.

#### **ECO-TIP**

Keep a pitcher by your sink to collect water that would be wasted while you wait for it to get hot. Use it to clean recyclables. If you don't soften your water, use it to water plants.

#### **Egremont Green Committee:**

Last September, the Egremont Green Committee held a bottle and can drive (collecting redeemables only) for hurricane relief efforts. With the help of many volunteers working at the Transfer Station, we raised \$825 and donated it to the Salvation Army.

The bottle and can drive has continued ever since. In October, funds raised went toward the Plastic Oceans Foundation. In November, the South Egremont School Fund was the beneficiary, and in December and January the funds raised were donated to the Salvation Army for holiday assistance. **In total, over \$2,200 has been donated to charity organizations and groups.**

We thank the Egremonters who donated their

deposit bottles and cans instead of redeeming them themselves. We are especially grateful to those who took the time to separate them from their regular recycling and toss them into the blue totes next to the recycling dumpster.

If the Green Committee has learned anything from this effort, it is that with a little bit of organization and volunteer manpower, cash can be raised from the bottles and cans folks choose not to redeem themselves, and this cash can benefit worthy charitable organizations or groups. Our collection effort continues, and funds raised in February will be donated to the Egremont Fire Department.

To keep this bottle and can drive going, we're soliciting help from our community. Do you have a favorite charity or belong to a worthy local group? Would you be interested in organizing a monthly collection, perhaps enlisting other members to help? The job involves collecting bottles and cans at the transfer station (when it's open) and redeeming them at Plaza Package. The funds you raise would go toward your charity or group.

If you can't see yourself organizing such an effort, could you help us out one or two days a month, perhaps when the weather is warmer? We'd be delighted to work with you and share the fun!

With a bit more assistance, we can make this recycling collection program sustainable. Even better, it also saves the town money by reducing hauling costs. Please contact Marj Wexler (mwexler43@gmail.com) for more information.

#### **ECO-TIP**

Food scraps produce significantly more methane, a greenhouse gas, when sent to a landfill than when broken down in compost. If you don't compost at home, use the community compost facility at our Transfer Station! And take home the finished compost – free!

#### **Conservation Commission:**

We are excited. We've been lucky.

First, we have a new Conservation Commission member. And AARP hasn't sent him mail yet. We welcome Logan Malik, a soon-to-be graduate of The George Washington University in April. In the meantime he *IS* a ConCom member. At the moment, he can only participate remotely by speakerphone and cannot participate in any votes. Come graduation, we'll welcome him at our bi-weekly meetings. In the meantime, he's shouldering an additional homework assignment learning from participating in our

meetings and staying current on the back-and-forth of ConCom emails.

So who is Logan? Just borrowing from his own words: “I was looking through the Berkshire Environmental Team’s (BEAT) and saw a position listed for a Commissioner on the Egremont Conservation Commission.” (Thanks to ECC member Alina Hsu for getting us on BEAT). “I have ample experience in environmental advocacy and policy through opportunities in Washington and think I could bring a positive perspective to the Commission.” WOW. We need not go on. To have a young, qualified person join the Commission is huge. (And, as an aside, Logan is not an Egremont resident but lives just across the line in Great Barrington, as did our long-time Commissioner Ben Barrett. One need not to be an Egremont resident to be a member of the Commission.) Our second stroke of luck is funding which will allow us to attend local educational sessions April 7. In the distant past, annually MACC and local organizations could provide funding for local (Pittsfield) programs. Not so for several years. Now, we have funding for a full-day program, including the two most basic MACC offerings. We all will attend. As a Commissioner, I have attended a few years back. All newer members have not had the opportunity.

Finally, an important note. Just recently the Commission had to serve a Wetland Protection Act Enforcement Order against a landowner whose property abuts a protected wetland regarding unapproved tree cutting and removal in a Wetland Protected area. If you’re planning anything near what might be a wetland, check first with the Conservation Commission. For information on what landowners may be required to do when served with an OE, simply search for Massachusetts WPA Form 9.

### **Technology Committee:**

Charter cable TV licensing process continues. On January 2 the Town received a partial response to questions and clarifications we had requested of Charter back in November. The Technology Committee met on January 8 to review Charter’s new information.

Some responses were favorable, such as agreement from Charter that they would liberalize their definition of “standard installation” from a drop length

of 125 feet to 250 feet. Some other questions went—and remain—unanswered, such as a description of their proposed coverage area. Recall that under their contract with the state, Charter is obligated to provide access to only 96% of dwellings in Egremont. We want to know where the 4% are that they plan to leave out, and what it would take to get those properties included to bring us as close as possible to the goal of 100% coverage.

Rather than wait for more answers through another lengthy round of communication with Charter, the Committee decided that a more proactive strategy would be to work with the Town’s Special Telecommunications Counsel to revise Charter’s original proposed license agreement to reflect the terms as we would like them to be and submit this to Charter as the Town’s “Issuing Authority Report,” or IAR. This would then be the Town’s official response to their proposal. The Town received a draft of this revised agreement from Counsel on February 20, and, having anticipated receipt of this draft, the Technology Committee met that same day to review it. There will ensue a dialog with our Counsel to refine this draft, and the Town expects to submit it to Charter later in February or in early March. The Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications (DTC) has extended the deadline for this process to March 31.

As explained in our December update, Charter will then follow up with their response to the Town’s submission in the form of a final proposal, which by law would be a take-it-or-leave-it proposition at that stage (no more negotiation). As further required by law, the Town will then hold a public hearing on Charter’s final proposal to take comments from residents. Informed by the Committee’s recommendation and feedback from residents, the Select Board will complete the process by taking an up-or-down vote to accept or reject Charter’s final proposal. Naturally, we hope and expect that by that point in the process, the agreement will be sufficiently in line with the needs of the Town that the Select Board will be able to accept. This would make Egremont the only town in western Massachusetts to have two internet options from which residents could choose.

Fiber Connect receives Grant of Location for Phase 2. At its meeting on February 12, the Egremont Select Board unanimously approved FC’s application for a Grant of Location for their Phase 2 construction. The Grant of Location is the Town’s process to permit utility companies to install utility poles and build electrical and

communications infrastructure along public ways. Unlike Charter, FC is not a “Cable TV” company because they provide no programming or content of any kind—they just provide the “pipe” through which independent digital content flows—and therefore they are not subject to cable TV regulations or the franchise agreement process.

Meanwhile, FC continues to add subscribers in Egremont. You can see FC’s weekly progress report at <http://www.bfcma.com/progress.php>. You can see their map of what areas Phase 1 and Phase 2 will cover at <http://bfcma.com/images/01258/phases.jpg>.

Lieutenant Governor Polito will be visiting Egremont soon. Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and representatives from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) were tentatively planning to meet with Egremont town officials and residents on Friday, March 9, 11:15 am. This date has since been postponed and we are awaiting a new date. This is part of a series of meetings between state officials and western Massachusetts towns to update the Governor’s Office on the status of broadband network efforts that are being funded (in part) by the Commonwealth. The meeting will be at Town Hall and is open to the public. We will notify the public when it is rescheduled.

### **Southern Berkshire Regional School District: Middle School Task Force**

The Middle School Task Force (MSTF) is underway! The MSTF includes district and building administrators, members of the District Leadership Team, faculty and staff, parents/guardians, School Committee and community members. Why are we looking at reconfiguring the middle school of Southern Berkshire Regional School District? Data from many sources: School Committee members, staff, community feedback, surveys, meetings, performance data, changes in the standards, enrollment trends, and other data—all point toward taking an opportunity to focus on the middle-school environment and to consider whether or not the 6<sup>th</sup> grade would be better served there or in an elementary model.

The charge for the task force is to review the current middle school program, and to examine and propose a reconfigured middle level program that includes grade 6, in an opportunity to continue to improve the educational experience for students. There

will be many opportunities for input and feedback throughout the process. Decisions, including the timing of grade transitions and the implementation of new programs, will be made with the students’ needs and their best interests in mind as the first priority. Information will be posted to the [www.sbrsd.org](http://www.sbrsd.org) website on the District Tab under Middle School Task Force.

In addition, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please use the link <http://www.sbrsd.org/middle-school-task-force.html> to submit anonymously to the MSTF for review and consideration.

### **School Resource Officer**

I am pleased to share that the School Committee approved the appointment of Officer Tricia Zucco as a part-time School Resource Officer for the District beginning February 1. The new position was funded in part by a grant that Police Chief Eric Munson of Sheffield had available, and the District matched those funds. The goal is to provide increased resources dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of students and staff. Officer Zucco will be leading classes for students on safety, security, decision making, substance abuse awareness and other topics, content that will be delivered in an age-appropriate way. She hopes to build relationships with students and staff through her work in the classroom, before and after school and at games and other school events. Research indicates that when students feel safe and secure, and when children can identify with at least one adult in the school, their achievement and educational experience improves. Officer Zucco hopes to be that person for some of our students. Chief Munson and Officer Zucco will continue to support the District with our safety drills, physical plant security, updates to our safety protocols, and trainings. Zucco has been working in the New Marlborough Central School as the nurse during the middle of the day, and plans to continue that work. In an effort to provide parents and community members with an opportunity to meet Officer Zucco, the District is planning Coffee with the SRO & Friends on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Eagle’s Loft.

### **Budget**

The 2018-2019 budget process is well underway. Over the last several weeks, Chris Regan, the District’s Business Administrator, and I have been presenting information the School Committee, the town Finance Committee members, and the public at several open meetings. In February, we prepared a preliminary budget, as

is required, a month before the Budget Hearing and Vote of Approval, which is scheduled for Thurs., March 15. Townspeople of the district's five towns—Alford, Egremont, Monterey, New Marlborough, and Sheffield—vote on the budget at their town meetings, all scheduled to begin in the first weeks of May. The preliminary budget was presented with a 2.28% increase and represents a level service budget for fiscal year 2019. In an effort to provide the most up to date information, the budget documents can be found at [www.sbrsd.org/budget](http://www.sbrsd.org/budget) or from the school website (go to "Budget" under "District").

As always, I am happy to answer any questions that I can.

#### Fire Department:

Date	Time	Call #
/Location	/Type	
12/31/2017	11:03 AM	198
Sheffield Rd.		Medical
1/2/2018	5:20 PM	1
Lake Side DR		Smoke in Bld.
1/8/2018	5:50 AM	2
Baldwin Hill N/S		Medical
1/9/2018	8:49 AM	3
Main St.		Chimney Fire
1/9/2018	2:47 PM	4
Fisher Ln.		Medical
1/10/20	18 9:14 PM	5
Egremont Plain Rd.		MVA
1/15/2018	10:13 AM	6
Jug End Rd.		Smell of Propane
1/18/2018	7:22 AM	7
Shun Toll Rd.		Alarm/False
1/20/2018	10:33 AM	8
Creamery Rd.		Alarm/False
1/20/2018	2:52 PM	9
Under Mountain Rd.		Alarm/false
1/20/2018	4:04 PM	10
Under Mountain Rd.		Alarm/False
1/20/2018	6:48 PM	11
Jug End Rd.		Burnt food
1/26/2018	2:01 PM	12
Main St.		Smell of Propane
1/27/2018	8:07 PM	13
Blunt Rd.		controlled burn
1/27/2018	10:38 PM	14

Blunt Rd.		Chiefs Call
1/28/2018	10:06 PM	15
West St. Mount Washington		Medical
1/29/2018	9:25 AM	16
Pine Crest Hill		Alarm/False
1/29/2018	1:32 PM	17
Lake Side Dr.		Water Call
1/30/2018	3:00 PM	18
Egremont Plain Rd.		Medical
2/1/2018	8:21 AM	19
Rt. 23 at Creamery		MVA/PI
2/1/2018	12:03 PM	20
Race Brook Falls M W		Rescue
2/1/2018	9:15 PM	21
Egremont Plain Rd.		Medical
2/4/2018	7:30 PM	22
Hillsdale Rd.		MVA/PI
2/7/2018	9:13 AM	23
Taconic Ln.		Medical
2/9/2018	10:00 PM	24
Creamery Rd.		Medical
2/11/2018	12:23 AM	25
Townhouse Hill Rd.		Medical
2/12/2018	9:36 AM	26
Mt. Washington Rd.		Medical
2/15/2018	12:23 AM	27
Hillsdale Rd.		Medical
2/18/2018	2:25 PM	28
Main St.		Chiefs Call
2/18/2018	6:18 PM	29
Creamery Rd.		Medical

#### ECO-TIP

Incandescent and halogen lightbulbs go into our regular trash (can't be recycled). Take fluorescent bulbs (including CFLs) to William Wood at the Transfer Station – they contain mercury.

#### Planning Board:

The Board is finalizing our Citizens' Questionnaire for distribution in the next months. The Board is hoping all citizens, full and parttime residents, will share their thoughts regarding future planning in Egremont.

We are in the midst of discussions for writing a Recreational Marijauna By-law for Egremont. The Cannabis



Control Commission of the State (CCC) has published draft guidelines which are being reviewed by the Board to frame a By-law by December 2018.

The Board is reviewing the Draft Proposed Recreational Overlay District By-law. This By-law will allow recreational uses on parcels of more than 75 acres located on Route 23 and Egremont/Sheffield Road in a way that balances economic benefit to the town in harmony with our open spaces, scenic views and overall natural beauty.

All citizens are invited to attend the Planning Board Meetings. The time and dates of these meetings are posted on the Town website and in the Post Offices.

#### **First Congregational Church of South Egremont:**

St. Patrick's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. March 17, 5-7pm. Adults \$15, children age 5-10 \$5. Take out available. At the First Congregational Church of South Egremont, 32 Main Street, South Egremont.

Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 am at Proctor's Bel-Air Farm, 131 Baldwin Hill Road. All are invited to attend. A light breakfast will follow in the Proctor home. Sponsored by the First Congregational Church of South Egremont.

#### **Berkshire Community College:**

Berkshire Community College's (BCC) Physical Therapist Assistant program will hold its 4th Annual Wellness Day, an event dedicated to the health and well-being of the local community, on Sat., April 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event, which is open to individuals of all ages and abilities, will be held at BCC's Paterson Field House located at 1350 West. St. in Pittsfield and will feature free educational booths as well as exercise classes and chair massages.

##### **Event Offerings:**

1. Chair massages
2. Fitness classes
3. Raffles
4. Educational booths
5. Fit 3D Scan Fitness Screens conducted by faculty and students.

The event is free to the public, with nominal fees for massages and exercise classes. All proceeds of the event go to All Out Adventures and the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts. Both groups work with

persons with disability, rehabilitation and helping to provide opportunities for people to explore and be part of the community at large.



#### **THE EAGLE FUND THANKS YOU!!**

Thank you for picking up the phone when a Mount Everett high school student called during our recent phone-a-thon fundraiser! Your donations will provide the resources needed to fund a new round of grants to support innovative opportunities for Southern Berkshire School District students not covered by the school budget.

This year's funding provided a variety of opportunities for a large number of students in the school district – our future leaders!

For more information on ways to support our future leaders, go to [www.eagle-fund.net](http://www.eagle-fund.net).



*(Mt. Everett's 7th & 8th grade VEX robotics team traveled to Framingham on December 2, to take on 20 other schools in the first regional qualifier event of the season. The team won all 9 of its regular round matches and swept through the playoffs to tally a record of 15-0 on the day. As champions of the event, the team earns a spot in the Southern New England Regional Championship to be held on March 10th. Funded by a grant from the Eagle Fund.)*

#### **National Grid: Reminder as these scams are ongoing.**

Reported utility billing and payment scams are resurfacing once again in New England. And National Grid

is warning its customers to beware and know the signs of a scam.

Customers who reported the scams say they were contacted by telephone by individuals who claim to be from National Grid and who advised the customers they have a past due balance on their utility bill.

The scammers warn that service will be shut off immediately unless the customer purchases a prepaid debit card in a specific amount, such as Green Dot card, and provides the caller with the card's account number, or in the case of business customers, by way of a Western Union money transfer. This is a huge warning sign.

The scenario can change, but the goal of the scammer remains the same: scare customers into making hasty, often large payments.

National Grid does contact customers with past due balances by phone to offer payment options, but never demands direct payment through the use of a prepaid debit card and never accepts payment through these cards.

Scam artists have become increasingly sophisticated in replicating National Grid's recorded messaging and directions for phone prompts, making it more difficult to differentiate an actual National Grid call from an imposter's call. Similar scams have been reported across the U.S. by other utilities.

Customers who believe they have fallen victim to the scam should contact National Grid and local law enforcement officials immediately.

National Grid urges customers to know the red flags and offers the following tips:

#### **Payment Scam 2/**

Customers should always contact National Grid using the toll-free telephone numbers listed on the billing statement. If you are provided a phone number that does not match the numbers on the billing statement, it is likely the call is a scam.

Be vigilant. If you believe you are current on your National Grid account, it is highly likely a call seeking payment is a scam.

Protect yourself. Ask the caller to provide the last five digits of your National Grid account number. If the caller doesn't know your account number and fishes for help, take charge and hang up immediately.

Do not take the bait. Scammers will not have access to your account information, and you should

never offer that information if asked. National Grid representatives will know your account number.

National Grid may ask for a payment over the phone, but will leave the method of payment to the customer.

Do not fall for scare tactics and threats. National Grid will not contact customers demanding immediate payment by wire transfer, Green Dot Money-Pak or any other prepaid card service.

Do not cave to pressure. Never -- under any circumstances -- offer personal or financial information to someone who you cannot identify.

Every National Grid employee carries a photo ID card, and any contractor doing work for the company is also required to carry ID. If someone requesting entry into your home or place of business does not show an ID card, don't let that person in and please call National Grid or your local law enforcement.

#### **Meeting schedule:**

Meeting regularly. Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail. This is not official.

Archives Room - First Saturday 9-noon  
or by appointment

Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 12noon & by appointment

Council on Aging - Third Tuesday of each month at 12noon. Other times as needed.

Board of Health - Monday-Thursday 7am to 12noon.

Meetings - Thursdays as posted 10am

Board of Selectmen - Meetings every other Monday evenings 7pm. Office weekdays 7am to 3pm.

Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm. Other times and inspections by appointment

Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth Thursdays 7:00pm

Finance Committee - January through April. Other times as needed.

Library - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 2-6pm & Saturday 9-12noon 413-528-1474

Planning Board - Please check web page for meeting dates.

School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays 6pm Mt. Everett High School Library

Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm

Town Clerk - Mon-Thurs 1pm to 3pm  
or by appointment

Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm,  
 Saturday 8am to 3pm, Sunday 12noon to 4pm  
 Water Department - Office Clerk weekdays 7am-3pm  
 Meetings second Thursday 3:00pm at Town Hall  
 Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed  
*To reach a board member or to leave a message  
 please call the Town Hall 528-0182.*

### Business listings:

In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in, or near, Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall.

Support local businesses:

Prospect Lake Park and Campground -  
 camping, swimming  
 413-528-4158 [prospectlk@aol.com](mailto:prospectlk@aol.com)  
[www.prospectlakepark.com](http://www.prospectlakepark.com)  
 Egremont residents receive a discount to access the beach.

The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B  
 1 Prospect Lake Road  
 413-528-2882  
[www.innsweetwater.com](http://www.innsweetwater.com)

John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant  
 413-528-3469

Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant-  
 Restaurant & Lodging  
 413-528-6200  
[www.swisshutte.com](http://www.swisshutte.com)

Dwelling in the Past  
 Lynn H. Wood: historic land records research  
[dwelling.LHW@gmail.com](mailto:dwelling.LHW@gmail.com)  
 Elisabeth L. Wood: historic and genealogical research  
[dwelling.ELW@gmail.com](mailto:dwelling.ELW@gmail.com)  
 P.O. Box 558, South Egremont MA 01258  
 413-528-3919  
 Call for complimentary consultation, and together we  
 will craft a project to suit your interests.

Robin's Chair Caning - Chair caning and repairs.

Robin Walther  
 116 Egremont Plain Road  
 413-528-2537  
[robinschaircaning@gmail.com](mailto:robinschaircaning@gmail.com)

Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal polishing  
 413-528-3230

41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern furniture,  
 antiques, collectibles, architectural and decorative objects.  
 413-528-0112  
[www.41mainantiques.com](http://www.41mainantiques.com)

Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback Riding  
 Lessons, summer programs  
[www.bluerider.org](http://www.bluerider.org)  
 413-528-5299

Green River Arabians & Pintos -  
 Horse Boarding, lessons, judging, farm programs  
 413-528-2367 [arabpinto13@yahoo.com](mailto:arabpinto13@yahoo.com)

Indian Line Farm - Community Supported Agriculture  
 (CSA) & Farmers Markets  
 413-528-8301  
[www.indianlinefarm.com](http://www.indianlinefarm.com)

Ivory Pond Farm -  
 Llamas, Yarn and Woolens. Dancing Crane Rug Hooking  
 Studio. Hooked rugs, lessons and supplies.  
 Tom & Liz Marino  
 413-528-9465  
[www.lizmarinorughooking.com](http://www.lizmarinorughooking.com)  
[Llamama@wildblue.net](mailto:Llamama@wildblue.net)

Turner Farms Maple Syrup - Phillips Road,  
 open 7am to 7pm 7 days a week.  
 Syrup and Honey  
 413-528-5710

Skip DelVaglio – Old Drone Apiary at Frog Cottage (Local  
 Honey)  
 1257 Sheffield – Egremont Road  
 413 528-2308

Frog Cottage Goodies: Phyllis & Cynthia  
Pies, cakes, cookies, fudge, fruitcakes, cheesecakes  
1257 Sheffield/Egremont Road  
Great Barrington MA 01230  
413-528-2308

Elfi Six Shiatsu/Acutonics®, Bodywork  
413-644-9979  
[www.CosmicResonance.com](http://www.CosmicResonance.com)

Zorn Family Chiropractic-Chiropractor  
44 Main Street, South Egremont  
413-528-9654  
[healingspiritdc@yahoo.com](mailto:healingspiritdc@yahoo.com)

Zorn Core Fitness -  
Personal, Couples & Group Training  
Cardio Room - \$25 @ month Free 1 month cardio for  
Egremont residents [zornari@gmail.com](mailto:zornari@gmail.com)  
46 Main Street, South Egremont  
413-528-1594 [www.zorncorefitness.com](http://www.zorncorefitness.com)

Yoga at Zorn Core Fitness, with Karin Beebe  
Ashtanga Yoga & Gentle/Hatha Yoga  
46 Main Street, South Egremont  
413-528-0828  
[kbyoga@gmail.com](mailto:kbyoga@gmail.com)

Old Egremont Country Store - groceries, beer, wine,  
liquor, newspapers, lottery, & much more  
413-528-4796

Blueberry Lane Home Design - Interior decorating  
413-528-9633

Closet Collection - clothing & household  
consignment shop  
413-528-6236

Berkshire Veneer Company - wholesale/retail  
wood veneer sales  
413-644-9696

Steve Agar - driving services  
Ride to the airport, train, etc  
413-717-1607

Lord St. Pierre - General Contractor  
Home renovations, maintenance and monitoring  
413-522-3671  
[llstpierre@yahoo.com](mailto:llstpierre@yahoo.com)

“Jack of All Trades”-Handyman Services  
Jack Buckley  
413-528-1982  
413-446-1982

James Olmsted - Outdoor Services & Caretaking Field  
Mowing  
413-528-0102  
pager 413-261-2150

Bonnie Wells: general housekeeping, maintenance to  
construction clean-up, ironing, polishing, organizing,  
window washing with free screen cleaning.  
413-854-7417 [bonbonz75@yahoo.com](mailto:bonbonz75@yahoo.com)

Catamount Ski Area - Skiing & ropes course  
413-528-1262  
[www.catamountski.com](http://www.catamountski.com)

Peter Goldberg, Realtor  
Residential, Commercial, Land  
Stone House Realty  
35 Railroad Street, Great Barrington  
413-281-6384m 413-528-4211o

Anita Schilling - Real Estate Listing & Sales  
William Pitt Sotheby's  
413-528-4192 or 413-626-1920  
[anitaschilling@gmail.com](mailto:anitaschilling@gmail.com)

Kenver Ltd - Winter Sports Equipment, Apparel &  
Accessories  
39 Main Street  
413-528-2330 [www.kenverltd.com](http://www.kenverltd.com)

Maple Leaf Art Gallery - Joan Mentzinger  
154 Hillsdale Road, Route 23

Cyber Knight - Matthew Wall  
PC repairs - Networking - Internet  
413-854-8660  
[Matthew.wall@yahoo.com](mailto:Matthew.wall@yahoo.com)



Dellea.biz Computer Services - Arthur Dellea  
<http://www.dellea.biz>  
 413-528-1141

Berkshire Wildlife Solutions - Resolving conflicts with nature. Eric F. Ives  
 Mass Problem Animal Control Agent  
 Consultation/Inspection, Capture, removal and exclusionary work.  
 413-528-9813 413-250-5094

Brookside Quiltworks - Catherine Kane - fabric shop and quilt gallery. 2 Sheffield Road, Egremont  
 413-528-0445 [www.brooksidequiltworks.com](http://www.brooksidequiltworks.com)

Maple Shade Enterprises: Quilts and Sewing, much more  
 Sue Delmolino Ives  
 413-644-0229 [susandelmolino@yahoo.com](mailto:susandelmolino@yahoo.com)

Stitched by JessaLu - Jessica Meyer  
 Handmade bags for your "Stuff"! [www.stitchedbyjesselu.com](http://www.stitchedbyjesselu.com)

Berkshire Sewn - Mary Gifford  
[berkshiresewn@gmail.com](mailto:berkshiresewn@gmail.com)  
 413-528-3040

Gregory Cherin Photography, South Egremont 1-917-991-0553 [info@gregorycherin.com](mailto:info@gregorycherin.com)  
[www.gregorycherin.com](http://www.gregorycherin.com)

Berkshire Band Instrument Co. - Kevin S. Wheeler  
 185 Route 71, Egremont MA 01230  
 413-528-4955

Berkshire South Regional Community Center  
 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington MA  
 413-528-2810 [www.berkshiresouth.org](http://www.berkshiresouth.org)  
 Non-profit community organization serving 17 towns throughout the Southern Berkshires. Providing a variety of educational, recreational and cultural programs for all ages - from early childhood to senior citizens - and partners with several local organizations.

Gogel & Gogel - Law Firm  
 Business law & litigation  
 40 Main Street  
 413-528-2698 [www.gogel-gogel.com](http://www.gogel-gogel.com)

House To House Hauling & Recycling  
 413-528-0943  
 Trash hauling services and roll-off containers services.

Jana Laiz: Local Author [www.crowfliespress.com](http://www.crowfliespress.com)  
 413-528-0943 [www.janalaiz.com](http://www.janalaiz.com)

Aston Magna Music Festival  
 Saturday evenings at the new Saint James Place in Great Barrington, mid-June to mid-July.  
[www.astonmagna.org](http://www.astonmagna.org)  
 Susan Obel, Executive Director

*Turtle Rock*

*By David Allan Hunter*

*Written in the early 1920's*

*Oftentimes I go a-walking  
Down the road at eventime  
Just to view that little village  
And pursue some fitful rime.  
Then there's something bids me daily  
On the bridge that I may look  
At that ancient, monster turtle  
Where he crouches in the brook.*

*He's a lazy, stupid fellow  
For he never makes a sound  
And I never saw him stretching  
Out his neck to look around.  
He just crouches there and listens  
To the brooklet as it runs  
But he never stirs his body  
Which is measured in the tons.*

*When he came to this location  
I have never yet been told.  
But I know by his appearance  
He is very, very old.  
He is free from care and worry,  
(Though there's moss upon his shell.)  
Has no fear of any weather  
And no hunger to dispel.*

*He need never crave for water  
For it runs beneath his nose  
And there's very little danger  
Of him frosting any toes.  
You could ask him his opinions  
Of the joys that he has known,  
But he'll never make an answer -  
For he's made of solid stone!*



*(Turtle Rock in the brook at the bridge on Route 41)*

Town of Egremont  
Box 368  
South Egremont MA 01258  
413-528-0182  
[www.egremont-ma.gov](http://www.egremont-ma.gov)  
[tegrement@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:tegrement@egremont-ma.gov)

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